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EXAMINER				
PULLIAM, CHRISTYANN R				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/785,204

Applicant(s)

SAITO ET AL.

Examiner

CHRISTYANN RF PULLIAM

Art Unit

2165

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/11/2009

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Prosecution Application

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 1, 2010 has been entered.
2. Claims 1-20 are pending as amended March 1, 2010. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 19 and 20 are currently amended. Claims 3-5 and 9-18 are previously presented. Claim 6 is original.
3. An Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 11, 2009 has been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rhodes, Bradley and Thad Starner, *Remembrance Agent: A continuously running automated information retrieval system* (1996) (hereinafter Rhodes).

As for Claim 1, Rhodes teaches:

an event occurrence detection device configured to detect an occurrence of an event (See e.g. Rhodes – page 122, col. 1 – Abstract and first full paragraph - current situation, reading email, change when start editing file; page 123 Design Issues – continuous and can explicitly request);

an extraction device configured to extract attribute information and a keyword from a first document corresponding to the event (See e.g. Rhodes – pages 122-123, Abstract and first full paragraph and Implementation section – query for related info created based on current document);

a search device configured to search a database using the extracted attribute information and the extracted keyword to retrieve a second document having related matching attribute information having similarity to the attribute information of the first document, the second document containing the keyword (See e.g. Rhodes – pages 122-123, first paragraph of The Remembrance Agent and the Implementation section – recommended related documents are listed, similarity based on keywords and filename, owner, date etc.); and

a display control device configured to display associated information corresponding to the second document (See e.g. Rhodes - Implementation section – front end displays suggestions).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 2-6, 17, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhodes in view of Shaffer et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,094,681 (hereinafter Shaffer) (also cited in prior actions).

As for Claim 2, Rhodes teaches parent Claim 1. Rhodes teaches many different events including reading email and editing a file (See e.g. Rhodes – page 122 – first paragraph of The Remembrance Agent section). Rhodes does not expressly teach the event as detecting sending, receiving, or editing of an electronic mail. However, Shaffer teaches wherein said event occurrence detection device detects sending, receiving, or editing of an electronic mail as said event (See e.g. Shaffer column 3, lines 9-11, and column 5, lines 34-59, and Abstract - e-mail).

Rhodes and Shaffer are from the analogous art of event detection and analysis. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made having the teachings of Rhodes and Shaffer to have combined Rhodes and Shaffer. The motivation to combine Rhodes and Shaffer is include the details about the recognition of more events. Shaffer adds details about the email interaction to the list of events that can be detected and analyzed by both systems. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Rhodes and Shaffer.

As for Claim 19, Rhodes teaches parent Claim 1. Rhodes also considers words used in queries to the help system (See e.g. Rhodes – pages 123-124 – Design issues – user can expressly ask for help). Rhodes also teaches determining word frequency in the query document and the reference documents (See e.g. Rhodes – page 122 Implementation). However, the information processing apparatus further comprising, a selection device for selecting an important word from among words contained in said first document (See e.g. Shaffer column 3, lines 48-64, column 4, lines 11-20), an acquisition device configured to acquire said associated information by using said important word selected by said selection device as said keyword (See e.g. Shaffer column 5, lines 42-65, wherein “important word” reads on “keyword”).

Rhodes and Shaffer are from the analogous art of event detection and analysis. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made having the teachings of Rhodes and Shaffer to have combined Rhodes and Shaffer. The motivation to combine Rhodes and Shaffer is include the details about the

recognition of keywords. However, Shaffer fills in the details of the common keyword frequency evaluation that can be done as part of the event analysis. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Rhodes and Shaffer.

As for Claim 3, Rhodes as modified by Shaffer teaches parent Claims 1 and 19. Shaffer also teaches wherein said acquisition device acquires a title and a URL of a Web page containing said important word as the associated information (See e.g. Shaffer column 6, lines 35-59, and column 6, lines 13-22).

As for Claim 4, Rhodes as modified by Shaffer teaches parent Claims 1 and 19. Shaffer wherein said acquisition device acquires, in a predetermined timed relation, said associated information related to said important word selected by said selection device (See e.g. Shaffer column 7, lines 41-67, wherein "timed relation" reads on "scheduling reminders", and abstract). Horvitz also teaches timed relations (See e.g. Horvitz – sections 4 and 5).

As for Claim 17, Rhodes teaches parent Claim 1. Rhodes teaching pre-indexing (See e.g. page 122, col. 2), but does not expressly detail grouping. However, Shaffer more clearly teaches further comprising: a grouping device configured to group said existing information into a group of existing information based upon attribute information of said existing information (See e.g. Shaffer column 3, lines 48-64, also see Shaffer column 4, lines 11-20), wherein said acquisition device acquires the associated

information related to said group of existing information made by said grouping device as said existing information (See e.g. Shaffer column 8, lines 26-30, also see Shaffer column 8, lines 56-67, and Shaffer column 9, lines 28), said search device searches for said group of existing information as said existing information having similarity to information corresponding to the present event detected by the event occurrence detection device (See e.g. Shaffer column 3, lines 48-64), and the display control device controls displaying of said associated information related to said group of existing information as said existing information retrieved by said search device (See e.g. Shaffer column 2, lines 60-67, and Shaffer column 3, lines 1-11).

Rhodes and Shaffer are from the analogous art of event detection and analysis. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made having the teachings of Rhodes and Shaffer to have combined Rhodes and Shaffer. The motivation to combine Rhodes and Shaffer is details the keyword analysis done to correlated events. Rhodes says that is uses words to make inferences about events. However, Shaffer fills in the details of the common keyword frequency evaluation that can be done as part of the event analysis. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Rhodes and Shaffer.

8. Claims 18, 20 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhodes in view of Shaffer, as applied above to claims 1 and 17, in further view of Hazlehurst et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,974,412 (hereinafter Hazlehurst).

As for Claim 18, Rhodes as modified by Shaffer teaches parent claims 1 and 17. Rhodes teaches keywords (See e.g. Rhodes page 122 – SMART info retrieval), but does not expressly teach weighting keywords. However, Hazlehurst teaches:

a weight calculation device configured to calculate the weight of key words contained in each said group of existing information (See e.g. Hazlehurst - col. 9, lines 7-41),

a selection device configured to select an important word among said key words based upon said weight of key words (See e.g. Hazlehurst - col. 7, lines 7-51, col. 8, lines 15-31 col. 9, lines 7-41, col. 19, lines 35-60, col. 21, lines 40-52, col. 24, line 50- col. 25, line 14),

wherein said acquisition device acquires said associated information related to said group of existing information using said important word selected by said selection device (See e.g. Hazlehurst - col. 9, lines 7-41 - author, source, and other meta-features).

The motivation to combine Rhodes and Shaffer is above with claims 1 and 17. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Rhodes as modified by Shaffer by the teaching of Hazlehurst. Hazlehurst details ways in which keywords can be weighted which would add a higher level of precision to the systems of Rhodes and Shaffer. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Rhodes and Shaffer and Hazlehurst.

As for Claim 20, Rhodes as modified by Shaffer teaches parent Claim 1. Rhodes teaches pre-indexing data (See e.g. Rhodes page 122, col. 2). However, Hazlehurst more expressly teaches a database construction device configured to construct the database by use of at least one of said attribute information extracted by said extraction device and said associated information (See e.g. Hazlehurst- col. 7, lines 7-60 – storage system and indices, col. 8, lines col. 8, lines 15-31, col. 9, lines 7-41 – index and master dictionary).

The motivation to combine Rhodes and Shaffer is above with claims 1 and 17. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Rhodes as modified by Shaffer by the teaching of Hazlehurst. Hazlehurst details ways in which keywords can be weighted which would add a higher level of precision to the systems of Rhodes and Shaffer. Hazlehurst also gives examples of the ways that the data used by all the system can be stored. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Rhodes and Shaffer and Hazlehurst.

As for Claim 5, Rhodes as modified by Shaffer and Hazlehurst teaches parent claims 1 and 20. Rhodes teaches pre-indexing data nightly (See e.g. Rhodes page 122, col. 2). Shaffer also teaches further comprising: update means for updating said database constructed by said database construction device when an update condition is satisfied (See e.g. Shaffer column 4, lines 11-67). Hazlehurst also teaches this (See e.g. Hazlehurst – col. 9, lines 22-42).

As for Claim 6, Rhodes as modified by Shaffer and Hazlehurst teaches parent claims 1 and 20 and 5. Shaffer also teaches wherein said update condition can be set by a user (See e.g. Shaffer column 4, lines 11-67).

9. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hazlehurst (also cited in prior actions) in view of Shaffer (also cited in prior actions).

As for Claims 7 and 8, Hazlehurst teaches:

An information processing method/instructions:

extracting attribute information from an existing text file (See e.g. Hazlehurst- col. 2, lines 1-15, col. 4, lines 48-60, col. 7, lines 7-51 col. 9, lines 7-41- author, source, and other meta-features);

extracting existing keywords from among words contained in said existing text file(See e.g. Hazlehurst- col. 7, lines 7-51, slurpees, col. 8, lines 15-31, col. 9, lines 7-41);

computing weights for said existing keywords based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file(See e.g. Hazlehurst- col. 9, lines 7-41 weighting based on word frequency in document), the associated information being obtained by accessing a search engine on the Internet using the important keyword as a search term (See e.g. Hazlehurst – liaisons – Figures 4, 8, 14a, Abstract, col. 7, line 53- col. 8, line 4, col. 20, line 39- col. 21, line 30); and

acquiring associated information for an important keyword of the existing keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold (See e.g. Hazlehurst- col. 7, line 7- col. 8, line 12-31, col. 9, lines 7-41, col. 19, lines 35-60, col. 21, lines 40-52, col. 24, line 50- col. 25, line 14, claim 44);

constructing a database by associating the important word with at least one of said attribute information extracted in the extracting step and said associated information acquired in the acquiring step (See e.g. Hazlehurst- col. 7, lines 7-60 – storage system and indices, col. 8, lines col. 8, lines 15-31, col. 9, lines 7-41 – index and master dictionary);

Hazlehurst uses database to correlate documents, users and objects, as well as events and feedback. Hazlehurst teaches world events (See e.g. Hazlehurst – col. 14, lines 35-62) but does not expressly teach user interactions as events. However Shaffer more clearly teaches:

detecting an occurrence of said event (See e.g. Shaffer column 2, lines 24-37);

detecting an event keyword from said text file corresponding to said event detected in the event occurrence detecting step (See e.g. Shaffer column 3, lines 48-64);

searching said database constructed in the database constructing step to retrieve said associated information corresponding to said event keyword detected in the event keyword detecting step See e.g. Shaffer column 2, lines 38-59); and

controlling displaying of said associated information retrieved in the searching step (See e.g. Shaffer column 2, lines 60-67, and Shaffer column 3, lines 1-11).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Shaffer by the teaching of Hazlehurst. Hazlehurst details ways in which keywords can be weighted which would add a higher level of precision to the system of Shaffer. Hazlehurst also gives examples of the ways that the data used by all the system can be stored. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Shaffer and Hazlehurst.

10. Claims 9 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shaffer (also cited in prior actions and above) in view of Lachman, Richard, *Animist Interface: Experiments in Mapping Character Animation to Computer Interface* (1997) (hereinafter Lachman), in further view of Kirsch et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,070,158 (hereinafter Kirsch) (also cited in prior actions).

As for Claim 9, Shaffer teaches:

a processing detection device configured to detect, as an event, predetermined processing of said predetermined application program (See e.g. Shaffer column 4, lines 10-5, column 6, lines 56-59);

a key word detection device configured to detect key words from said text file processed by said predetermined application program corresponding to said event detected by said processing detection device (See e.g. Shaffer column 3, lines 48-64, column 4, lines 11-20);

... by searching a database for a previously processed existing file corresponding to said important key word (See e.g. Shaffer column 2, lines 38-59);

an input device configured to input a command (See e.g. Shaffer column 10, lines 31-33);

a command processing device configured to execute, in response to said command inputted by said input device, processing on said associated information(See e.g. Shaffer column 10, lines 31-40); and

a display control device configured to display, in response to said event detected by said processing detection device (See e.g. Shaffer column 2, lines 60-67, and Shaffer column 3, lines 1-11).

Shaffer teaches key word searches. Shaffer does not expressly teaches means for computing weights for said key words based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file, and searching for said associated information for an important key word of the keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold. However, Kirsch teaches means for computing weights for said key words based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file, and searching for said associated information for an important key word of the keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold (See e.g. Kirsch - col. 10, lines 16-45 - frequency, threshold, contextual significance and col. 17, line 25- col. 18, line 45 – score based on frequency, terms counts, groups, subgroups, weights).

Shaffer and Kirsch are from the analogous art of search processing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made

having the teachings of Shaffer and Kirsch to have combined Shaffer and Kirsch. The motivation to combine Shaffer and Kirsch is expand the elements analyzed in a document and used to score the relevance of said document. Due to the overlapping search subject matter, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Shaffer and Kirsch.

Shaffer does not expressly teach an animated agent. However, Lachman teaches:

an information processing apparatus for displaying an animated agent on a display device and for displaying associated information related to a text file processed by a predetermined application program (See e.g. Lachman – pages 11-12 – Agents with Faces has nine states for the agent to convey “Working” or “Confused” or “Unsure” and Microsoft Bob and Office Assistant – animates to show the machine following user instructions and proactively offers tips; further for ordinary tips a light bulb appears but for more important tips it gestures wildly; pages 36-39 Maitre-D Interface);

said animated agent onto said display device and changing a manner of displaying said character animated agent in response to said command inputted by said input device (See e.g. Lachman – pages 11-12 – Agents with Faces has nine states for the agent to convey “Working” or “Confused” or “Unsure” and Microsoft Bob and Office Assistant – animates to show the machine following user instructions and proactively offers tips; further for ordinary tips a light bulb appears but for more important tips it gestures wildly; pages 36-39 Maitre-D Interface).

Lachman and Shaffer and Kirsch are from the analogous art of event detection and analysis. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made having the teachings of Lachman and Shaffer and Kirsch to have combined Lachman and Shaffer and Kirsch. The motivation to combine Lachman and Shaffer and Kirsch is detail the animated assistant that can be added to the systems of Shaffer and Kirsch. Lachman details the various prior systems of animated assistants. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Shaffer and Kirsch and Lachman.

As for Claim 12, Shaffer as modified by Lachman and Kirsch teach parent Claim 9. Lachman also teaches wherein said command processing device displays, on said display device, said associated information retrieved by said search device in an object form with respect to at least one of movement, storage, and deletion, in response to a display command inputted by said input device (See e.g. Lachman – page 12 – Office Assistant - user instructions like printing, saving, sending email; tips and shortcuts including for closing without saving).

As for Claim 13, Shaffer as modified by Lachman and Kirsch and Horvitz teach parent Claims 9 and 12. Lachman also teaches wherein said command processing device stores said associated information in response to a storage command inputted by said input device and displays a list of the stored associated information onto said display device (See e.g. Lachman – page 12 – Office Assistant – tips and shortcuts).

Kirsch also presents the search report including information about the results (See e.g. Kirsch - col. 9, lines 25-47).

As for Claim 14, Shaffer as modified by Lachman and Kirsch teach parent Claim 9. Shaffer also teaches wherein said associated information is a URL of a Web page and said command processing device starts a WWW browser so as to access said URL of said Web page as said associated information in response to an access command inputted by said input device (See e.g. Shaffer column 6, lines 13-59).

As for Claims 15 and 16, Shaffer teaches:
detecting, as an event, predetermined processing of said predetermined application program (See e.g. Shaffer column 4, lines 10-5, also see Shaffer column 6, lines 56-59);

detecting key words from said text file processed by said predetermined application program corresponding to said event detected in the processing detecting step (See e.g. Shaffer column 3, lines 48-64, also see Shaffer column 4, lines 11-20);

... searching a database for a previously processed existing file corresponding to said important key word (See e.g. Shaffer column 2, lines 38-59);

executing, in response to a command inputted, processing on said associated information retrieved in the searching step (See e.g. Shaffer column 10, lines 31-40);
and

displaying, in response to said event detected in the processing of said detecting step (See e.g. Shaffer column 2, lines 60-67, and Shaffer column 3, lines 1-11).

Shaffer teaches key word searches. Shaffer does not expressly teaches computing weights for said key words based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file, and searching for said associated information for an important key word of the keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold by searching a database for a previously processed existing file corresponding to said important key word. However, Kirsch teaches computing weights for said key words based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file, and searching for said associated information for an important key word of the keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold by searching a database for a previously processed existing file corresponding to said important key word (See e.g. Kirsch - col. 10, lines 16-45 - frequency, threshold, contextual significance and col. 17, line 25- col. 18, line 45 – score based on frequency, terms counts, groups, subgroups, weights).

Shaffer and Kirsch are from the analogous art of search processing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made having the teachings of Shaffer and Kirsch to have combined Shaffer and Kirsch. The motivation to combine Shaffer and Kirsch is expand the elements analyzed in a document and used to score the relevance of said document. Due to the overlapping search subject matter, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Shaffer and Kirsch.

Shaffer does not expressly teach an animated agent. However, Lachman teaches:

a computer to display an animated agent on a display device and to display associated information related to a text file processed by a predetermined application program (See e.g. Lachman – pages 11-12 – Agents with Faces has nine states for the agent to convey “Working” or “Confused” or “Unsure” and Microsoft Bob and Office Assistant – animates to show the machine following user instructions and proactively offers tips; further for ordinary tips a light bulb appears but for more important tips it gestures wildly; pages 36-39 Maitre-D Interface);

said animated agent onto said display device and changing a manner of displaying said animated agent in response to said command inputted (See e.g. Lachman – pages 11-12 – Agents with Faces has nine states for the agent to convey “Working” or “Confused” or “Unsure” and Microsoft Bob and Office Assistant – animates to show the machine following user instructions and proactively offers tips; further for ordinary tips a light bulb appears but for more important tips it gestures wildly; pages 36-39 Maitre-D Interface).

Lachman and Shaffer and Kirsch are from the analogous art of event detection and analysis. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made having the teachings of Lachman and Shaffer and Kirsch to have combined Lachman and Shaffer and Kirsch. The motivation to combine Lachman and Shaffer and Kirsch is detail the animated assistant that can be added to the systems of Shaffer and Kirsch. Lachman details the various prior systems of animated

assistants. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Shaffer and Kirsch and Lachman.

Alternatively for claims 9-16, references to Kirsch can be replaced with Hazlehurst as above with claims 7-8, 20 and 5-6.

11. Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shaffer (also cited in prior actions and above) in view of Lachman, in further view of Kirsch (also cited in prior actions) and in further view of Eric Horvitz et al., *The Lumiere Project: Bayesian User Modeling for Inferring the Goals and Needs of Software Users*, Proceedings of the 14th Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence, July 1998, pages 256-265 (hereinafter Horvitz) (also cited in prior actions).

As for Claim 10, Shaffer as modified by Lachman and Kirsch teach parent Claim 9. Lachman describes the animated agents providing tips but does not detail the additional displays of text as a script. However, Horvitz teaches wherein said display control device also displays text information as a script of said character animated agent (See e.g. Horvitz – Figures 7- 11).

The motivation to combine Lachman and Shaffer and Kirsch is above with Claim 9. Horvitz and Shaffer are from the analogous art of event detection and analysis. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made having the teachings of Horvitz and Shaffer to have combined Horvitz and

Shaffer. The motivation to combine Horvitz and Shaffer is details the keyword analysis done to correlated events. Horvitz provides further details about the help interface that is also described in Lachman. Horvitz and Shaffer both detail inferences that can be made from event detection. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Horvitz and Shaffer.

As for Claim 11, Shaffer as modified by Lachman and Kirsch and Horvitz teach parent Claims 9-10. Horvitz also teaches further comprising an output device configured to output a voice signal corresponding to said text information displayed by said display control device (Horvitz – sections 3 and 7, Figures 8-11).

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments filed March 1, 2010 with respect to claims 1-6, 17, 19-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

13. Applicant's arguments filed March 1, 2010 regarding claims 7-8 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Hazelhurst teaches the added limitation so citations are provided (See e.g. Hazlehurst – liaisons – Figures 4, 8, 14a, Abstract, col. 7, line 53- col. 8, line 4, col. 20, line 39- col. 21, line 30).

14. Applicant's arguments filed March 1, 2010 with respect to claims 9-16 have been considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues regarding the limitation at the end of the claim "changing a manner of displaying said animated agent in response to said comment inputted by said input device". Examiner disagrees because the Microsoft™ Office Assistant display changes based on input (See e.g. Horvitz – Figures, 7-9, 11 and Sections 6.2 and 7). However, to advance prosecution new ground(s) of rejection are presented to more fully describe the animated agent and the multiple, prior incarnations of such an agent.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTYANN RF PULLIAM whose telephone number is (571)270-1007. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9 am-6 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Neveen Abel-Jalil can be reached on 571-272-4074. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Christyann RF Pulliam/
Examiner, Art Unit 2165
April 20, 2010